

**Senate Finance - Pay parity language**

Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. REDUCING PAYMENT DIFFERENTIALS TO ACHIEVE SITE-  
NEUTRAL PAYMENT AMOUNTS

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Health care professional" means a physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, subchapter 2, or a physician assistant licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 31.

(2) "Health insurer" shall have the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A. § 9402.

(b)(1) Beginning on January 1, 2018, for each nonemergency evaluation and management office visit code, all health insurers shall modify their payment rates to health care professionals across all settings in Vermont to the amount of the insurer's average payment for that code across all settings in Vermont on January 1, 2017. On and after October 1, 2017, the payment rate for each nonemergency evaluation and management office visit code shall be the same regardless of the health care setting in which the service is provided.

(2) Beginning on January 1, 2018, for the codes associated with each of the primary care services identified by the Department of Vermont Health Access as eligible for increased reimbursement rates pursuant to 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 54, Sec. 57, all health insurers shall modify their payment rates to health care professionals across all settings in Vermont to the amount of the insurer's average payment for that code across all settings in Vermont on January 1, 2017. On and after October 1, 2017, the payment

rate for each identified primary care code shall be the same regardless of the health care setting in which the service is provided.

(c) In order to equalize payments further to health care professionals, beginning on January 1, 2019, all health insurers shall modify their payment rates to health care professionals for all services not described in subsection (a) or (b) of this section such that the payment amount for each service across all settings in Vermont is no more than 30 percent above or 20 percent below the health insurer's average payment for that service across all settings in Vermont on January 1, 2017.

(d) In order to equalize payments further to health care professionals, beginning on January 1, 2020, all health insurers shall modify their payment rates to health care professionals for the services described in subsection (c) of this section such that the payment amount for each service across all settings in Vermont is no more than 20 percent above or 10 percent below the health insurer's average payment for that service across all settings in Vermont on January 1, 2017.

(e)(1) A health insurer shall acquire any monies needed to reduce payment differentials in accordance with this section through modifications to its reimbursement rates.

(2) A health insurer shall not request any increases to its premium rates pursuant to 8 V.S.A. § 4062 that are associated in any way with the insurer's efforts to comply with the provisions of this section.

(3) Any net savings realized by a health insurer as a result of modifications to its reimbursement rates pursuant to this section shall be reflected in reduced premiums or reduced cost-sharing, or both, for policyholders.